

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 6, 7, 14-18, 20, 21, 26-44, 49, 50, 57-61, 63, 64, and 69-86 are pending in the application, of which claims 26-43 and 69-86 are withdrawn. Claims 1, 6, 7, 14-18, 20, 21, 44, 49, 50, 57-61, 63, and 64 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim Amendments

The foregoing amendment of independent claim 1 on which claims 6, 7, 14-18, 20, and 21 depend and independent claim 44 on which claims 49, 50, 57-61, 63, and 64 depend substitutes consisting at least in part of for “such as” in the preamble of each of claims 1 and 44.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 6, 7, 14-18, 20, 21, 44, 49, 50, 57-61, 63, and 64 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention because the Examiner considers that the words “such as” as used in the preamble of each of claims 1 and 44 “renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations [*sic*] following the phrase are part of the claimed invention.” The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

It is abundantly clear that the words in the preamble immediately following “such as” simply define a context in which the invention operates. Nevertheless, the foregoing amendment substituting consisting at least in part of for “such as” in the preamble of each of independent claims 1 and 44 renders the rejection moot.

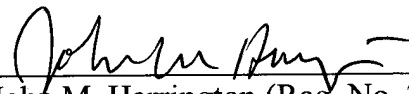
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and these remarks, each of the claims remaining in the application is in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection and to pass the application to issue. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (336) 607-7318 to discuss any further questions relating to the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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